



Indian and Northern  
Affaires Canada    Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

Français

Contact Us

Help

Search

Canada

Canada Site

Home

What's New

About INAC

News Room

Site Map

Regional  
Offices

Electronic  
Services

Programs &  
Services

Publications &  
Research

Art, Culture &  
History

A - Z Index

News Releases

Indian & Inuit Art

Northern Affairs  
Program

Employment

Education

Kids' Stop

Treaties

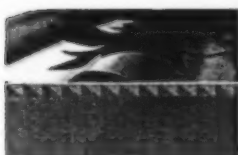
Status - F A Q

Programs

Services

PSAB

Sustainable  
Development



## News Release    Communiqué

2-2850

### CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT FUNDS IMPROVEMENTS TO INFRASTRUCTURE AT CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES FIRST NATION

**LONDON, ONTARIO (March 14, 2007)** - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced \$2.9 million for water and housing capital projects for Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, a community 35 kilometres south of London.

"Last year, I announced a Plan of Action to provide First Nation communities with the resources they require to deliver clean water to their residents. With today's project announcement, Canada's New Government is ensuring the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation have safe, clean and reliable drinking water," said Minister Prentice. "Today, I am proud to also announce an initiative that will ensure this community can meet the increasing housing demands of its senior citizens."

"These projects will bring significant benefits to the Chippewas of the Thames community," said Chief Kelly Riley. "The construction of this gallery is an important step in the process of acquiring a state-of-the-art water treatment facility."

INAC is providing approximately \$2.7 million for improvements to the First Nation's raw water supply system. The project involves the design and construction of a sewage infiltration gallery, construction of a low lift pumping station, and decommissioning of four existing raw water supply wells. A further \$200,000 will assist with lot-servicing for 20 units of a seniors complex currently under construction. When completed, the complex will include a total of 60 units. It is being financed through a repayable loan of \$1.26 million from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. CMHC is also providing an annual subsidy of \$150,619 over the life of the loan.

There are approximately 829 members residing on reserve, and another 1,431 living off reserve.

#### For more information, please contact:

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Backgrounder - Infiltration Gallery Raw Water Supply System

[Back to News Release Index](#)

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[Top of Page](#)

[Important Notices](#)



Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

Canada

Français

Contact Us

Help

Search

Canada Site

Home

What's New

About INAC

News Room

Site Map

Regional  
Offices

Electronic  
Services

Programs &  
Services

Publications &  
Research

Art, Culture &  
History

A - Z Index

News Releases

Indian & Inuit Art

Northern Affairs  
Program

Employment

Education

Kids' Stop

Treaties

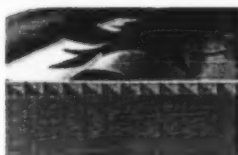
Status - F A Q

Programs

Services

PSAB

Sustainable  
Development



## BACKGROUNDER

### Infiltration Gallery Raw Water Supply System (\$2,752,200 million)

The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation has an existing raw water supply that draws water from four wells located in the flood plain of the Thames River. The combined yield of these wells is not capable of providing sufficient water to meet the current and future water demands of the community.

The development of an infiltration gallery will increase the community's water supply.

The infiltration gallery consists of a 30-centimetre diameter perforated pipe, buried five to six metres underground. The perforated pipe is expected to be approximately 700 metres long, and will effectively connect a number of groundwater aquifers. The project will also include the installation of a low-lift station (a type of pump that will collect the water from the perforated pipe, and pump it to the existing water treatment plant).

The location of the infiltration gallery is near the First Nation's existing wells, within the Thames River flood plain. No wildlife or significant vegetation is expected to be affected by the construction, and the area will be returned to its original state once construction is complete. The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation indicates that traditional hunting and fishing will not be affected by this project.

### Lot-Servicing Initiative for Phase One of Seniors Complex

INAC is providing \$200,000 to the First Nation for lot-servicing of phase one of a 60-unit seniors complex. Phase one consists of constructing an initial 20 units. Lot-servicing includes landscaping, surveying, parking, storm drainage, roads, sidewalks, and connections to hydro and the communal water/sewage distribution systems.

The complex project is being developed in response to a growing need for affordable living for senior citizens. The complex will enable the First Nation to meet its increasing housing demands for this segment of the population.

Construction costs are being offset by financial assistance from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

[Back to News Release](#)

[Back to News Release Index](#)

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Revised: 2007-03-19  
Created: 2007-03-14

  
Top of Page

[Important Notices](#)